

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01 SR-02

ORM-03 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 260832Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5961

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASUCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1510

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH NEW JEWISH SETTLEMENT ON WEST BANK

REF: JERUSALEM 1234 (NOTAL); TEL AVIV 4210

1. SUMMARY. DESPITE ARMY CHECKPOINTS ON ROADS TO NABLUS, PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS GROUP OF ABOUT 150 JEWISH SETTLERS AND 2,000 SYMPATHIZERS, INCLUDING NUMBER OF LIKUD MKS, ESTABLISHED SELVES JULY 25 IN OLD RAILWAY STATION NEAR SEBASTIA, NORTHWEST OF NABLUS NEAR INTERSECTION OF ROADS LINKING NABLUS, TULKARM AND JENIN. NABLUS, TULKARM AND JENIN NOTABLES REPORTEDLY MEETING JULY 26 TO DISCUSS SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. GROUP OF ABOUT 150 JEWISH SETTLERS EVADED ISRAELI MILITARY ROADBLOCKS JULY 25 AND HAVE SET UP "SETTLEMENT" IN AND AROUND
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OLD SEBASTIA RAILWAY STATION NORTHWEST OF NABLUS. ISRAELI RADIO

REPORTED JULY 26 THEY HAD BEEN JOINED BY 2,000 SYMPATHIZERS, INCLUDING 18 MKS. LIKUD LEADERS MENAHEM BEGIN AND ARIEL SHARON REPORTEDLY AMONG LATTER AND WERE TO MEET WITH DEFMIN SHIMON PERES EARLY JULY 26. ALTHOUGH BUSLOADS OF TROOPS SENT TO AREA, NO ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE TO REMOVE SETTLERS, ACCORDING TO RADIO BECAUSE OF DESIRE TO AVOID VIOLENT CLASH WITH LARGE NUMBER OF SYMPATHIZERS.

3. NABLUS MAYOR HAJ MAZOUZ AL-MASRI STRONGLY DENOUNCED SETTLEMENT EFFORT JULY 25 AND ANNOUNCED MEETING OF NOTABLES FROM NABLUS, TULKARM AND JENIN TO BE HELD JULY 26 TO DISCUSS THIS "THREAT" TO PEOPLE OF WHOLE AREA AND DECIDE ON POSSIBLE ACTION. AL MASRI ALSO SAID HE WAS CONTACTING MILGOV AUTHORITIES TO PROTEST AND EXPRESS UNITED CONCERN OF LOCAL INHABITANTS.

4. COMMENT. WHILE NABLUS RESIDENTS HAD THREATENED DEMONSTRATION AND MARCH TO SITE OF UNSUCCESSFUL SETTLEMENT ATTEMPT LAST JUNE, SIZE OF GROUP ASSEMBLED AT SEBASTIA MAY WELL DETER THEM FROM SUCH EFFORT. WE ASSUME GOI WILL IN ANY EVENT MAKE STRENUOUS EFFORT PREVENT ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT LEAD TO CLASH BETWEEN SETTLERS AND LOCAL PEOPLE. ANY RETREAT FROM STAND RABIN GOVT HAS TAKEN SO FAR AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE VIEWED WITH DISMAY BY WEST BANKERS AND, WE WOULD ASSUME, ARAB WORLD IN GENERAL.

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